

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR IDENTIFYING AN I/O NETWORK
IN A PROCESS CONTROL SYSTEM**

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A network identification system for use in a process control system creates and stores
5 a unique network identification tag for input/output networks in the process control system.
During the configuration process, each process controller is assigned a unique controller
identification tag. In addition, each input/output device installed on each process controller is
assigned a device identification tag. The network identification system creates a network
10 identification tag for an input/output network by concatenating and combining the unique
controller identification tag and the device identification tag. The network identification
system may be configured to periodically transmit the network identification tag or to provide
the network identification tag in response to a request for identification.